

India is aware of the growing demand of Information Technology (IT) professionals in the country. In view of this, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the Statutory Body responsible for coordinated development of technical education in the country, through a special drive using an accelerated process for approval, increased around 46000 seats during the year 2000-2001 for IT related subjects in approved technical institutes. The Secondary and Higher Secondary Schools do not come under the purview of AICTE.

Problem of Gujarat students regarding examinations

†3104. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether students in Gujarat are running from pillar to post to take examination due to Government's carelessness and red-tapism, while the whole world the domestic and foreign voluntary organisations had extended their help for the earthquake victims; and

(b) if not, what arrangements have been made by Government and the CBSE to conduct written and practical examinations for students in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) As per information received from the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), the Board has made following special arrangements for the conduct of Secondary and Senior Secondary Examination 2001 for the students of CBSE affiliated schools located in the worst earthquake affected districts of Gujarat:—

1. The students have been permitted to take up practical examinations after the theory examinations.

2. They can appear for theory and practical examinations from

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

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any other examination centre set up in the CBSE affiliated schools located all over the country.

3. The schools have been authorised to appoint practical examiners locally to avoid any inconvenience to the students.

4. The CBSE has also decided to conduct re-examination in theory between 16th April, 2001 to 27th April, 2001 for such candidates who do not find it feasible to appear in the CBSE's main examinations which have commenced from 7th March, 2001.

Drop-out rate of tribal students

3105. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the drop-out rate of tribal students in different States has been increasing for the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise and State-wise and the action being taken to check this trends?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The drop-out rates for tribal students have generally been declining over the last three years.

Several measures have been taken to reduce drop-out rates among Scheduled Tribes particularly at elementary stage. These include micro-planning, Community mobilization, improvement of school infrastructure through Operation Blackboard Scheme, District Primary Education Programme (DPEP), National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid-day Meals), various incentive schemes such as scholarships, free-ships, free textbooks, uniforms, construction of hostels and residential schools for Scheduled Tribes students etc. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan that has recently been launched to achieve universalisation of elementary education in a holistic and convergent manner has a special focus on disadvantaged groups including Scheduled Tribes.